

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) An automatic document feeder comprising:

a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;

a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;

a feeding section configured to feed the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;

an input section inputting information on the material of the document; and

a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation in the separating section based on the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section.

21. (New) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the input section inputs information on whether or not the document is recording paper recorded in color.

22. (New) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 21, wherein the separation control section delays the timing of starting a separating operation when the information indicating that the document is color-recorded paper is inputted more than that for normal paper documents.

23. (New) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 22, further comprising a sensor disposed between the separating section and the feeding section and configured to detect the presence of a document,

wherein the separation control section switches between a first separation mode in which the separation of the following document is started after the trailing edge of the document has been detected by the sensor, and a second separation mode in which the separation of the following document is started before the trailing edge of the documents is detected by the sensor, based on the information on the kind of document.

24. (New) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the input section inputs information set by a console section of a connected imaging device or information set by a console section of the document feeder.

25. (New) An imaging device comprising:

a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;

a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;

a feeding section configured to feed the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;

an input section inputting information on the material of the document;

a recording-mode setting section configured to set whether color recording is preformed or monochrome recording is preformed;

a separation control section controlling timing of starting the separation in the separating section based on the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section; and

a warning section configured to warn when the input section has not inputted that the document is color recorded paper in the case where a color recording mode is set by the recording-mode setting section.

26. (New) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device comprising:

- a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;
- a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;
- a feeding section configured to feed the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;
- a determining section determining whether the recording mode of the imaging device is a color recording mode or a monochrome recording mode; and
- a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation in the separating section based on the determination of the determining section.

27. (New) An automatic document feeder according to Claim 26, wherein the separation control section delays the start timing of the separating operation in the color recording mode more than the start timing of the separating operation in the monochrome recording mode.

28. (New) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device, comprising:

- a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;
- a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;
- a carrying section carrying the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position;
- a determining section determining whether or not the imaging device connected to the automatic document feeder has a color recording function; and
- a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation in the separating section based on the determination of the determining section.

29. (New) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device, according to Claim 28, wherein the separation control section delays the timing of starting the separating operation when the imaging device has the color recording function more than the timing of starting the separating operation when the imaging device has no color recording function.

30. (New) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a feeding section feeding the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

inputting information on the kind of document; and

controlling a separation start timing in the separating section based on the information on the kind of document inputted in the input step.

31. (New) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder connected to a imaging device including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a feeding section feeding the documents separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

inputting information on the material of the document;

setting whether color recording is performed or monochrome recording is performed by the imaging device;

controlling a separation start timing in the separating section depending on the information on the kind of document inputted in the inputting step; and

warning when it has not been inputted that the document is color recorded paper in the inputting step in the case where a color recording mode is set in the setting step.

32. (New) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder connected to a imaging device including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a carrying section carrying the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

determining whether a recording mode in the imaging device is a color recording mode or a monochrome recording mode; and

controlling a separation start timing in the separating section based on the determination in the determining step.

33. (New) A method for controlling an automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device including a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed, a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one, and a feeding section feeding the document separated by the separating section to a document reading position, the method comprising:

determining whether or not the imaging device has a color recording function; and

controlling a separation start timing in the separating section based on the determination in the determining step.